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Chief, Plans and Policy Staff

15 July 1949

Chief, Requirements Division

Interim summary of geographic branch replies concerning production of ORE Field Reporting Guides

1. Under date of 5 July, Requirements Division distributed to the chiefs of each of the geographic branches (with the exception of Western Europe) four copies of [] prepared by B/WE together with an explanatory memorandum which requested comment on five points:

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- a. Feasibility of adapting the general plan of the sample guide to countries within Branch cognizance
- b. Suggestions for modification of the sample requirement as applied to all areas
- c. Suggested frequency for revision of the priority/adequacy indications
- d. Countries under Branch cognizance for which field reporting guides should be produced
- e. Suggested schedule for production of such guides

2. Final replies have now been received from four of the five branches polled. B/WE has submitted a tentative reply, couched generally in the negative, with the explanation that a final reply will be written within a few days, after the new chief of the economic division has become sufficiently familiar with the intelligence production problems to assist in drafting a firm statement for the branch.

3. Summary of replies. Of the four final replies received, three are generally in agreement with the suggested program, one (B/NEA) summarily rejecting the project as not feasible. The following summary is therefore limited to the replies received from B/FE, B/LA and B/No.

- a. Feasibility of adapting the general plan to areas within Branch cognizance: While stressing the necessity for substantial revision of the pattern guide to fit situations peculiar to the various areas, the Branches are in fairly unanimous agreement that some sort of project could be carried out. All express some doubt as to the probable reception such guides will find with the IAC agencies, in view of the existence of broad permanent field guides already issued by the departments themselves. There is almost unanimous feeling that pre-coordination with the collection agencies, both IAC and CIA, will be necessary to insure proper reception of the guides, once produced.

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b. Suggestions for modification of the requirement as applied to all areas; No direct reply was received on this point.

c. Suggested frequency for revision of priority/adequacy indications; Suggestions range from quarterly to semiannually, with the proviso that latitude should be reserved to enable ORE to issue unscheduled revisions as circumstances may require.

d. Countries for which field reporting guides should be produced; These Branches willing to go along with the project suggest that all countries under their cognizance should be included in such a program, if such a program is to be instituted.

e. Suggested production schedule; B/FE and B/LA are reluctant to make any statement on this point until interagency coordination as suggested under 1a above is completed. B/No suggests that the [] could be completed within one month and that guides for the other areas could be out within the two following months.

4. [] comments. Certain comments vouchsafed by the Branches, while not bearing on the advisability of setting up field reporting guides, nevertheless deserve consideration in eventual implementation of the program;

a. It is believed that great care should be exercised in defining what is meant by "priority" and that, further, extremely judicious and even chary use should be made of high priority indications.

b. One Branch feels that more stress should be laid on the need for interpretive and analytical reporting from the field.

5. A further and more definitive report on the progress of this project will be submitted when Requirements Division has had the opportunity to discuss various moot points with the Branch chiefs and eliminate certain misunderstandings which doubtless underlie apparent non-concurrences.

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Encls: ORE Field Reporting Guide []
Memorandum 5 July 1949 from Requirements
Division to Branches on FRG's

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